

*Saskatchewan
Rural
Telephone
Companies
Association*



*Minutes of
1954 Convention*

The annual convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones was held in the Club 400 in Saskatoon, on July 5th, 1954. Prior to the convention the directors met at 10:00 a.m. to prepare an agenda, discuss certain proposed resolutions, as well as other pertinent telephone matters.

At 11:00 a.m. the President, Mr. F. Randall, opened the meeting. He said that if any director or member company, during the year, has a problem or item, which should be looked into or considered by the board, such director or company, should either write or call for more information; or else have a meeting of the directors called. He announced that the forenoon would be devoted to:

1. President's Report.
2. Reading of the 1953 convention minutes.
3. Appointment of the resolutions' committee.
4. The Mayor of Saskatoon or his Deputy.
5. Mr. S. R. Muirhead:
Deputy Minister of Telephones.
6. Mr. T. E. Cavanagh:
Superintendent of Rurals.
7. Mr. W. A. Sheardown:
Divisional Supt. in Saskatoon.
8. Mr. Fraser:
Representing Chipman Chemical Co.
9. Mr. S. H. Frandsen:
Member of the Sask. Timber Board.
10. Workmen's Compensation Board, report.
11. The Association's audited financial report.
12. Elections, Convention place, 1955, etc.

Mr. Randall announced that a delegation of rural telephone linemen or repairmen was in attendance. They were asking that a super-annuation scheme should be inaugurated. Their representative would be allowed to present their case and proposal. Their speaking time would be limited; but questions and answers would be allowed for a reasonable time. Enquiries re: membership fees had been received. The fees are 50 cents per rural circuit. Minimum \$2.00; Maximum \$10.00. All cheques should have exchange added. Resolutions will be presented at the proper time by the chairman of the committee. We hope that more and more companies will accept membership. During the past year quite a few have joined up. Today we have many new delegates and new companies here. The 1953 convention minutes were printed. There are sufficient copies on hand and will be passed out to those attending. At this point it was moved by Briarlea and Viscount companies, "that copies be given to all; to be read and studied by them over the noon hour." Carried.

The chairman announced that Mr. Frandsen had expressed a desire to speak before the lunch hour; since he had another business

appointment early in the afternoon. Therefore, he called upon Mr. Frandsen to address the meeting. The latter expressed his appreciation in having been invited. By sitting in on the meeting, he could learn and perhaps assist. We manufacture and process "pressure-treated" line poles. "Butt-treated" creosoted poles only painted on the pole has no lasting qualities. Butt-pressure-treated poles, where the oil is forced into the pole under pressure with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch depth penetration, has an average life of 14 to 20 years. Full pressure-treated poles have an average life of 21 to 28 years. These are University of New York statistics. The price of Jackpine poles compares favorably with that of Cedar poles. We now can truck in one load from 100 to 180 poles per load. We manufacture from a class 120 to a class 150. Class is a designation put on a pole. That is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the butt or $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the top. Class is the top and butt size. We should like to meet delegates and companies at anytime and discuss their problems and render assistance in every possible way.

Q:—Have they got poles cured dry so that they will not sweat tar?

A:—No; there are 36 reasons why this is not possible. One is that it is not properly seasoned. The cause is still not known.

Q:—Is there anything a man can use to protect themselves from sores?

A:—FENDO; It costs \$10.00 a gallon and is very effective.

Q:—Can the Timber Board get an honorary membership in your organization?

A:—Instruct your secretary to write to:

Mr. M. Kalmakoff, general manager,
Prince Albert, Sask.

Moved by Manitou Lake and Briarlea companies, that "the secretary be instructed to write to the manager of the Timber Board re: this matter. Carried.

Q:—What is the cost of transporting poles?

A:—It is the same as railway transport. Estimated weight is what freight is based on.

Q:—Are poles used as much in the south as in the north.

A:—Yes, It is difficult to sell cedar poles though, because they are easier to buy from the coast.

Q:—Why cannot we extend honorary membership to supply companies.

A:—We shall leave this question until these companies apply for an honorary membership.

Moved by Round Plains and Young companies that the resolutions' committee be appointed by the chairman. Carried.

Appointed were:

Mr. M. Fritshaw, Tisdale, chairman;
Mr. C. V. Sutton, Marshall;
Mr. Runyan, Punnichy.

Moved and seconded that "we recess until 1:15 p.m. Carried.

Immediately after the noon hour the president asked the Deputy Minister of Telephones, Mr. Muirhead, to address the meeting. The latter said that by sitting in on such meetings, listening to the discussions, questions, problems etc., the officials receive much useful information. The various points of view and opinions expressed, help the officials in working out rural telephone matter which will be for the benefit of all. He felt that during the various question periods a further opportunity may arise to give advice and guidance and explanations. He wished the association every success in their deliberations. He was gratified that quite a few new rural companies were represented by delegates, so that a greater attendance was seen at these conventions.

Mr. Cavanagh, Supt. of Rurals, spoke next. He said that the questions asked made him and other departmental officials, keep on their toes. We have had some promise and success with power influence. That three inspectors were steadily engaged with this problem. There are too many accidents from carelessness, due to people being too careless with poles. Every official, every company, should instruct its employees to be very careful. More accidents could and should be prevented.

The Divisional Superintendent in Saskatoon, Mr. Sheardown, expressed his appreciation in having received an invitation. This is the first opportunity I have had of attending your conventions. He said the work of every rural telephone official is very important. The burden of applying the policy as laid down by its members, falls upon the secretary-treasurer. Expressed the hope that he could be of some service at present or anytime. His office would always welcome officials to discuss telephone matters and problems.

At this point the chairman read a resolution forwarded by the Eye Hill Telephone Co.:

Whereas, the telephone boxes in use throughout the province are nearly worn out from years of use, and,

Whereas, this situation confronts all rural telephone companies in Saskatchewan;

Therefore, be it resolved, that this convention go on record recommending the Saskatchewan Government setting up repair facilities that will adequately take care of this situation, and make sufficient reconditioned boxes available to take care of the demand.

In reply Mr. Cavanagh stated that this was already being done for some time. The work was done "at cost" and the government did not make a profit on this work. Our repair shops are overhauling and repairing telephone

boxes all the time. Any rural company may avail themselves of this service at any time.

The Deputy Mayor, Mrs. M. Walker, had arrived. She was welcomed by the chairman and introduced to the meeting. Mrs. Walker brought regards and greetings from the mayor, who was at present out of the city. In a pleasant and affable manner she expressed her appreciation and wished the organization success in its deliberations. She explained briefly the parking regulations. Concluding, she said: "May you go back renewed to do a better job". She was loudly applauded as she left the meeting.

A delegate: "All our telephone business is done in Saskatoon from our rural area. So an extra line was built. Company paid for outgoing calls, but not for incoming calls."

Mr. Muirhead: "We will look into this matter when we get back to Regina."

A delegate: "We have an internal organization between Hepburn, Waldheim, and Laird. A triple-jack was put in." Delegate went into certain problems brought about by this.

Reply: "In regard to the first question the Deputy Minister will inquire into the matter. As regards the second question "you will have to settle this problem amongst yourselves."

Brush Spraying: Mr. Fraser said that his company had done much work along this line and much expansion is taking place. Chemical brush spraying is cleaner, neater, and cheaper. Mechanical clearing requires more labor and expense. Three pounds of acid may be used per acre; but two to four pounds per acre is also used. Two pounds is the minimum per acre of 2-4-D for killing weeds and brush. This is the best plan. Most trees, especially poplar and willow, can be killed by 2-4-D. You must kill both sides of a tree. Must completely cover tree to kill it. Usually about 2 or 3 years. It will kill roots also so that you will not get any regrowth. If sprayed completely the trees and roots will be killed without any chance of regrowth. Pressure spray for treating persistent brush and trees along phone lines. Take water to the sprayer -- not the sprayer to the water. Experiment as to what mixture to use. Use 2-4-D and oil for winter use. Treat bottom four feet of the tree. If information is desired just write; or ask questions now or see me at your convenience.

Q:—Penetration in dense bluff?

A:—Depends on size of the sprayer. Must watch crops and shelter belts when spraying. There is no effect on wires or poles.

Re: Resolution from Biggar Rural Telephone Co: whereas, the Dept. of Telephones are now sending out long distance accounts to rural telephone companies, including part of the

following month, this causes considerable confusion in telephone books printed generally on a monthly basis. Therefore, be it resolved, that we ask the department to send out these long distance accounts on a straight monthly system.

Replied to by Mr. Muirhead: These accounts are sent out by machine from one central point. Cost is kept down by circulating during the whole month. The reason; to allow most efficient manner of billing, because of large volume of business, and so much billing to be done. Information on these accounts has been cut down to gain speed and to put calls through busy phones. Considerable discussion followed. The resolution was moved by Biggar-Viscount companies.

Result: Lost by 2 votes.

Re: Rural linemen superannuation: Moved by Star City and Viscount companies:

We, the Association of Rural Telephone Linemen ask that a committee be appointed from the Association of Rural Telephone Companies to work with our committee and the Rural Branch, Dept. of Telephones, (if they will) to try and work out a superannuation scheme for permanent rural telephone linemen; and that a report be brought in at the next annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones.

Mr. Shaw, representing the rural linemen briefly stated their case and arguments. The reasons for the request advanced by Mr. Shaw were: 1. Nearly all other employees have a scheme like this. 2. Not much to look forward to in old age. 3. We are willing to pay our share of the cost for this scheme.

This was followed by numerous questions and explanations. A delegate said: "There is no future for a young person starting in this field. There is a need for someone to do trouble and maintenance work." Carried.

Re: Connection fees: Naseby and Round Plains Companies; Whereas, on Jan. 1st, 1954, the Dept. of Telephones in Regina saw fit to increase the annual connecting fee payable by rural companies from \$6.00 to \$7.00 in spite of the fact that the Dept. of Telephones had a big surplus in 1953; and, whereas, the Dept. of Telephones raised the connecting fee from \$5.00 to \$6.00 to cover the cost of installing automatic telephones even before dial phones were installed; also they notified the companies involved, that no further advance in fee would be made after the dial phones were installed; Therefore, we ask the Dept. of Telephones to reduce the connecting fee to \$6.00 as was agreed upon at the time these automatic phones were installed.

In rebuttal, Mr. Muirhead stated that the connecting fees are reasonable and moderate. That fees are small if they are dial or manual. Connecting fees vary with the different towns. Much discussion, questions, replies and explanations followed. Lost.

Resolutions:

1. By Briarlea:—Be it resolved that parties moving buildings over fourteen feet in height from road level, or any other large equipment, be required to obtain a permit from the rural municipal council and also from the local rural telephone company before moving. Carried.

2. By Wadena and Sunderland:—Be it resolved that section 9, subsection 3 of the Rural Telephone Companies Act be amended so that telephone companies may charge a new subscriber on an existing line, the full cost of such installation including the materials and all labor.

This aroused considerable discussion. Carried

3. By Invermay:—Resolved, that in the opinion of this convention, held on Saskatoon, July 5th, 1954, that the Minimum Wages Act as it applies to rural telephone companies, should be abolished, seeing that it just means a curtailment of services, more especially with the smaller telephone companies, and serves no useful purpose. Carried.

4. By Kinistino:—Whereas, the government has increased the long distance fees, and switching fees, we request a larger commission, as our operating expenses have increased. Lost.

5. By Nipawin:—Whereas, at points where the Saskatchewan Government System operates a telephone office and rural telephone companies pay switching charges; also that The Government Telephone System does not pay the rural company any commission for collecting long distance tolls, that this convention goes on record and asks the Government to make all long distance accounts payable to themselves. Therefore, be it resolved, that The Saskatchewan Government Telephone System be responsible for and collect all long distance calls made through their office over rural telephone company lines where the System operates an office.

Much discussion and viewpoints expressed. Carried.

6. By South Melfort and Beatty:—Whereas rural telephone companies have collected long distance tolls for The Saskatchewan Department of Telephones for many years without fees, or compensation for secretarial services, postage, stationery, etc., and, whereas, fully fifty percent of the cost of operating a rural telephone company is the cost of collection

of said long distance tolls, and, whereas, there are inevitably a certain percentage of such tolls that are uncollectable, and, therefore, are a complete loss to said rural companies; Therefore, in view of the fact that all long distance tolls have been substantially increased by the Dept. of Telephones, be it, resolved, that this convention requests that a fair and equitable compensation be allowed to all rural telephone companies presently collecting long distance tolls without commission. Percentage to be decided by a committee with representation from the body of this convention.

In rebuttal, Mr. Muirhead read a letter concerning this request which denied said request because it would prove too troublesome and also involves a lot of extra work and cost without benefit.

Some discussion, questions, viewpoints, and explanations. Carried.

7. By South Prince Albert:—Whereas, the Rural Telephone Act places the limit of special levy tax of four percent on paid-up capital, with an extra four percent with the permission from the Department yearly; Be it resolved, that owing to increased cost of material and labor that rural companies be able to tax an eight percent special levy without special permission, with an increased tax with special permission. Lost.

8. By Gowanbrae:—The directors of the Gowanbrae company are protesting against the increase in the switching fees; and hereby request that the fee be returned to \$5.00.

Mr. Muirhead had dealt with this in his remarks under the resolution submitted by Round Plains. Lost.

Questions, Problems etc:

A. When a telephone company was organized all quarter sections were taxed, some for run-off as well. Afterwards a few owners had their phones removed. Would these owners continue to pay the run-off tax as well as the special levy tax?

Mr. Cavanagh replying, said: As long as you keep up equipment and materials in good condition, you do not have to remove anything to avoid tax. The company can still collect amount of tax.

B. As there is no way to check mistakes on the new way the long distance tolls are made out I move that the Dept. of Telephones revert back to the old way prior to February 1st, 1954.

Moved and seconded that "the question be put." Lost.

The secretary-treasurer read the financial statement as prepared by G. W. Barrett & Co.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures
for the period of July 1, 1953 to June 30, 1954:

Receipts

| | | |
|---|----------|------------|
| Membership Fees | \$364.00 | |
| Interest | 2.00 | |
| Exchange added to cheques received for membership fees | .90 | \$ 366.90 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Bank Balance, July 1, 1953 | 642.58 | |
| Dominion of Canada Bond .. | 50.00 | 692.59 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$1,059.48 |

Expenditures

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Directors' Travel Expenses .. | \$205.50 | |
| Printing, postage, stationery | 131.82 | |
| Secretary's Salary, 1952-53 .. | 100.00 | |
| " Part Salary '53-54 | 75.00 | |
| Stenographic Services | 12.00 | |
| Hall Rent | 6.25 | |
| Audit | 5.00 | |
| Exchange on Cheques | 4.90 | |
| Sundry— | | |
| Caretaker, Convention Hall | 5.00 | |
| Long Distance Calls | 3.70 | \$ 549.17 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Bank Balance, June 30, 1954 | 460.31 | |
| Bominion of Canada Bond .. | 50.00 | \$ 510.31 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$1,059.48 |

Moved by Young and Viscount companies that the financial statement be accepted and filed. Carried.

Moved by Eye Hill and Connaught companies that G. W. Barrett & Co., be re-engaged as auditors for the coming year at \$7.50.

Carried.

A delegate: Mr. Chairman, I believe the minutes of the 1953 convention have as yet not been adopted. I therefore, move that they be adopted and filed.

Seconded by Mr. J. J. Brunning. Carried.

Elections:

Mr. Muirhead, acting chairman, for the office of president.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Randall be president. No other nominations. Declared re-elected.

Moved and seconded that Mr. Fritshaw be vice-president. No other nominations. Re-elected.

Moved and seconded that all directors be re-elected. No dissenting voices. Carried.

Directors:

H. F. Foston - - - - - Meota, Sask.
 G. H. Furneaux - - - - - Nipawin, Sask.
 R. J. Greaves - - - - - Star City, Sask.
 John Larson - - - - - Young, Sask.
 T. Packer - - - - - Eston, Sask.
 H. B. Polkinghorne - - - Marsden, Sask.
 M. Scramstad - - - - - Hendon, Sask.
 W. G. Streeton, Sr. - - - Plunkett, Sask.
 C. V. Sutton - - - - - Marshall, Sask.
 H. Yungwirth, Box 388, Prince Albert, Sask.

All directors declared re-elected.

Convention city for 1955.

Prince Albert and Saskatoon proposed.

Result of balloting, Saskatoon.

Moved and seconded that we express our thanks to Mrs. M. Walker, deputy mayor, the city of Saskatoon and its officials for their consideration in taking care of traffic tickets whilst attending the convention. Carried.

Moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to the various speakers. Carried.

The chairman asked a former long-time director, Mr. F. S. Anderson, to give the delegates the pros and cons on his system of billing subscribers. The latter complied and briefly described his system. He stated it was a very simple and effective system. His remarks were well received and applauded.

Some discussion followed on damage done to the land of the company and destruction and/or damage to its equipment. Questions asked and replies made by various officials. It was generally admitted that these things were legal problems and should be brought before someone with the jurisdiction to handle such cases.

Mr. Randall announced that the newly elected officials would meet briefly, immediately after the convention.

There being no further business it was moved and seconded that this meeting be adjourned. Time 5:50 P.M. Carried.

President

Mr. F. RANDALL,
Box 833, Tisdale, Sask.

Sec-Treas.

J. M. STROEDER,
Pilger, Sask.